Portraits of His Highness the Maharaja.

READ—

Government Order No. G. 13614-25—G. M. 20-18-29, dated 7th January 1919 directing that fifty coloured portraits of His Highness the Maharaja framed in teakwood be kept for sale at Rs. 15 per portrait at the marginally noted Offices.

(1) Office of each of the Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
(2) The Government Book Depot, Fort, Bangalore City.
(3) The Arts and Crafts Depot.

2. Para 2 of Government Order No. G. 3952-4011—G. M. 72-22-64, dated 29th August 1923, requesting the Superintendent, Government Printing, among other matters to send the remaining coloured portraits of His Highness except 30 to the Curator, Government Book Depot, for sale to the public at rates noted in the margain.

Coloured portraits—	Rs.
(1) With ordinary teak frame	15 each
(2) Assorted portraits with teak frame at	20 each
(3) Portraits with high class gilt frame,	27 each

3. Correspondence ending with letter No. 2262 of 19th January 1926, from the Superintendent, Government Printing, stating that in view of a large number of portraits remaining unsold, the prices of portraits referred to above be reduced as follows:—

	Rs.
(1) Coloured portraits with ordinary teak frame	10 each
(2) Assorted portraits with better frame	15 each
(3) Portraits with high class gilt frame	25 each

ORDER No. G. 7495-506—G. M. 7-25-15, DATED 19TH MARCH 1926.

The proposal of the Superintendent to reduce the prices of the various classes of portraits is approved. Thirty of the portraits of the above classes as well as all the copies of the satin portraits may be kept for supply to Government Offices and Schools in future, and the rest sold at the prices now approved.

The fact that the prices of portraits have been reduced may be advertised and action taken to effect a speedy sale of the copies available.

P. G. D'SOUZA,
Chief Secretary to Government.

LOCAL AND LEGISLATIVE SECRETARIAT.

Administration Reports.

READ—

The Administration Reports of the several District Boards in the State during the year 1924-25.

ORDER No. L. 5931-44—L. B. 101-25-14, DATED 10TH MARCH 1926.

In pursuance of the instructions issued in Government Order No. L. 7848-70—Ml. 135-23-1, dated the 2nd April 1924, a consolidated review is issued on the Administration Reports of all the District Boards in the State for the year 1924-25.

2. *Number of Local Bodies.*—There were eight District Boards, 76 Taluk Boards and 817 Village Panchayets in all, working at the close of the year.

3. *Meetings and Attendance.*—All the District Boards held the prescribed number of meetings during the year. Out of 76 Taluk Boards, the prescribed number of meetings was not held in the case of six Boards in the Tumkur District, four in each of the districts of Mysore, Shimoga and Kadur, three in Chitaldrug, two in Kolar and one in the Hassan District. The Taluk Boards of Gundlupet and Nanjangud in the Mysore District failed to hold the prescribed number of meetings not only this year, but also during the previous year. This is unsatisfactory.

Out of the 817 Village Panchayets, only 46 held the prescribed number of meetings, while a large number of them did not hold meetings at all during the year. Government regret to observe that there has been no appreciable improvement at all in this matter. Government trust that with the coming into force of the new Regulation which is under consideration before the Legislative Council, the Village Panchayets will show greater zeal in the working of their village affairs.

4. *Bye-laws Framed and Fresh Imposts.*—Vaccination Bye-laws framed under the Vaccination Regulation in the Channagiri Taluk, were approved by Government. Rules framed by the District Board, Shimoga District, for the issue of duplicates of debenture bonds of the Shimoga District Board Railway, in lieu of those lost or destroyed, were approved by Government. The Bangalore District Board has proposed the levy of Railway Cess at 3 pies per rupee for a period of five years to finance the Bangalor-Hosur Railway project. The question is under the consideration of Government. Sanction was accorded to the levy of Education Cess in the Mysore District at 6 pies per rupee, on all items of revenue on which local cess is levied, with effect from 1st July 1925. Two districts, *viz.*, Kolar and Kadur have not yet levied the Education Cess. The levy of the cess is proposed to be made compulsory in the District Boards Bill.

5. *Finance Committee and Audit of Accounts.*—The accounts of the several District Boards for 1923-24 were audited by the Local Audit Staff of the Comptroller's Office and no serious irregularities were noticed. The Finance Committee of the Bangalore District Board met three times and eight meetings were adjourned for want of quorum. Since that Committee failed to frame and submit the District Board Budget Estimates for 1925-26 in time, it was dissolved and a new Committee was constituted by the Board, which compiled the District Board Budget and also checked the Taluk Board Budgets. The Committees in the other District Boards met several times during the year to dispose of questions relating to their finances and continued to take great interest in framing their budgets and in supervising the accounts. Government however observe that no action has yet been taken in any District Board for the introduction of a systematic arrangement for checking the accounts of each Board as suggested in para 5 of their review on the District Board Administration Reports during 1923-24.

6. *Demand, Collection and Balance under House, Shop and Mohatarfa Taxes.*—The current demand under this head was Rs. 3,21,259 and the arrear demand was Rs. 2,17,768 as against Rs. 2,89,350 and Rs. 1,19,929, respectively, in the previous year. The total amount collected under both these heads was Rs. 3,00,741, as against Rs. 2,72,547 in the previous year. The collection of the current revenue as compared with the current demand in the Bangalore, Tumkur and Kadur Districts was poor. The collection of current revenue in the Tumkur District was observed to be very poor last year also. The details of demand or collection under arrears, have not been furnished in the case of Bangalore, Chitaldrug, Kolar and Mysore Districts. This information should invariably be given in the future reports. The arrears at the close of the year under review amount to Rs. 2,38,286 as compared with Rs. 1,36,732 at the end of the previous year. Government regret to observe that the arrears of this year are nearly double that of last year. Government hope that vigorous steps will be taken for reducing them appreciably. Steps should also be taken for the reduction of the arrears in all the Village Panchayets which are also reported to be very heavy in all the districts, generally.

7. *General Financial Condition.*—The income and expenditure of all the local bodies under ordinary items amounted to Rs. 15,11,742 and Rs. 16,56,341 against Rs. 18,34,679 and Rs. 17,68,343, respectively, during the previous year, and those under extraordinary items were Rs. 15,25,509 and Rs. 10,14,837, against Rs. 7,71,076 and Rs. 12,32,369, respectively, during 1923-24. The expenditure under ordinary items exceeded the income in all the districts, except Tumkur, Shimoga and Kadur, while under extraordinary items, the expenditure in the case of Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts, was more than the income. As in the previous year, the main items of ordinary and extraordinary income were Local Cess and House and Mohatarfa taxes in all districts, and Railway and Education Cesses in the districts where they were levied. The main items of ordinary expenditure in all districts were for Public Works executed by the Public Works Department, Administration and Collection Charges, Medical Relief and Sanitation. Railway charges in the Kolar, Tumkur,

Mysore, Shimoga, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts, and contribution towards education charges in the Bangalore, Tumkur, Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts, constituted the main items of extraordinary expenditure. The financial condition of the Kolar, Hassan, Shimoga and Chitaldrug District Boards cannot be considered to be sound. Government hope that necessary steps will be taken during the current year for improving the situation. The closing balance at the credit of the several District Boards was Rs. 13,68,154 against Rs. 16,21,102 during 1923-24, the amount for the Tumkur District being the largest, *viz.*, over rupees six lakhs. There was a deficit balance in the case of the Kolar and Chitaldrug Districts. The outlay for works executed by the Public Works Department, was Rs. 5,48,323 and the amount spent by the Civil Department for Public Works was Rs. 1,86,914. The Mysore and Bangalore Districts have spent the largest amount, under the former head, and Mysore and Kolar, under the latter head. The amount spent for road works during the year was Rs. 4,03,739. The condition of roads is reported to have been fairly satisfactory in the Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts. It is reported that in the Bangalore and Mysore Districts, several important roads require special repairs at a heavy cost to make them fit for motor and other heavy traffic. In the case of the Kadur District, it is stated that the District Board should be relieved of a portion of the expenditure by the transfer of some roads to the Public Works Department.

8. *Drinking Water Wells.*—The amount spent by all the Boards was Rs. 90,407 as against Rs. 1,18,127 during the previous year. In all, 298 wells were completed and 946 were in several stages of completion. The balance at the credit of the fund in the Hassan, Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts was Rs, 51,126, the details for the other districts not being furnished. Owing to adverse seasonal conditions, a large number of new well works was undertaken in the Tumkur District, though the number of incomplete works in the district was also large. The number of wells completed was the largest in the Tumkur Disirict, being 106, Mysore and Kolar coming next, the numbers being 48 and 38, respectively. The delay in completing the large number of well works in progress in the several districts is said to be due to want of skilled labour and adverse seasonal conditions.

9. *Lapses.*—Under public works executed by Civil Departments, the amount that lapsed during the year in all the districts aggregated Rs. 1,28,969 against Rs. 1,19,940 during the last year. The lapses were heavy in the Mysore and Bangalore Districts, being more than 50 per cent of the year's grant. The heavy lapse in the Mysore District is said to be due to the District Fund quota of Rs. 40,000 provided for constructing bridges across the Cauvery and Kapini at T. Narsipur not being used, as the works were not commenced by Government. No explanation has been furnished for the heavy lapse in the Bangalore District. It is however reported that stringent instructions have been issued to all Taluk Boards to complete all works which have been in progress for a long time.

10. *Medical Relief, etc.*—The Local Fund Dispensary at Hura in the Nanjangud Taluk sanctioned last year, was opened during the year. Another dispensary for Honnavalli in the Tiptur Taluk was sanctioned during the year and opened in August. Two new dispensaries were newly sanctioned to be opened at Akkihebbal and Kagalvadi in the Mysore District. In addition to these, another dispensary at Hulikere in the Tirthahalli Taluk has also been sanctioned out of the Malnad Improvement Funds. Twelve new Vaidyasalas were opened during the year. The number of patients treated during the year in all the dispensaries maintained out of District Funds, was 17,41,862 against 17,03,042 in the previous year. In the 98 Vaidyasalas, 4,82,802 patients were treated as against 4,34,255 during the previous year. The number of labour cases attended to by 137 midwives was 8,435 against 8,675 cases by 129 midwives during 1923-24. The number of persons vaccinated was 1,20,062 against 1,08,924 in 1923-24.

11. *Village Sanitation Rules.*—Village sanitation rules were newly introduced into 51 villages during the year under review and 429 persons were prosecuted for the infringement of these rules. Of these, 248 persons were convicted and a sum of Rs. 416-6-0 was recovered as fines.

12. *Vital Statistics.*—The total number of births and deaths recorded during the year was 77,691 and 1,02,740 against 91,721 and 96,318, respectively, during 1923-24. Plague, cholera and small-pox prevailed in all the districts in a more or less virulent form. The mortality under malarial fever was high in the Mysore and Hassan Districts. Necessary preventive measures are reported to have been adopted for the suppression of these diseases in all the districts.

13. The following important measures were passed during the year in connection with the administration of Local Boards:—

The Local Boards were authorised to depute delegates to the Local Self-Government Conferences held outside the State under certain conditions. The Presidents of District Boards were authorised to inspect Local Fund Dispensaries and the Senior Surgeon was instructed to comply, as far as possible, with the recommendation of the District Board, for the transfer of Medical Officers. Orders were passed on the resolutions of the Local Self-Government Conference on the further development of the Local Boards in the State. The rules relating to the direction and supervision of vaccination in rural parts were amended. The District Boards were empowered to fix the quorum for their Committees, subject to a minimum of 50 per cent of the strength of the Committee.

14. The Shimoga and Kadur District Boards have proposed the transfer of some important District Fund roads to the Public Works Department for want of funds, and the Chitaldrug District Board has prayed for the strengthening of the District Board finances. These proposals will be considered by Government separately, on receipt of definite proposals in each case.

15. *District Board Railways, Mysore District.*—The construction of the Nanjangud-Chamrajnagar Railway line which was started in 1919 and ordered to be stopped in 1921 on account of financial stringency, has now been directed to be resumed on the District Board having agreed to raise a Debenture Loan for the purpose and provide for interest and sinking fund charges. A loan of Rs. 8 lakhs was raised. The outlay incurred on the construction of the line during the year was Rs. 21,965. A sum of Rs. 4,29,828 being the accumulated collection under Railway Cess was also made available for the work.

Out of a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs spent by Government at the outset on the line, one lakh was repaid to Government out of the accumulated Railway Cess Fund.

Shimoga District.—The total amount collected towards the Debenture Loan raised by the Shimoga District Board up to the end of the year for the construction of the District Board Railway was Rs. 3,71,131, which was made over to Government for the construction of the line. The Railway Cess collected so far amounted to Rs. 2,76,329 including accumulated interest. The raising of the balance of the loan and resuming the construction of the Railway line have been referred to Government for orders.

Kadur District.—The Kadur District Board have submitted to Government a scheme for the construction of a Railway from Kadur to Chikmagalur at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakhs of which, a moiety is to be paid by Government and the other half is proposed to be raised by a Debenture Loan.

Government have since passed orders for constructing the line as a Government concern, on certain conditions accepted by the District Board.

The amount of loan raised for financing the construction of the Chitaldrug-Chikjajur Railway amounted to Rs. 1,57,647. As the District Board was not able to raise further subscriptions to the loan, Government directed that the amount collected may be utilised towards the construction of the line and the Railway be treated as Government line.

16. *General.*—As in the previous year, the non-official members of the District and Taluk Boards, evinced much interest in the administration of these bodies, and took a keen interest in the discussion of the subjects brought before them. The non-official Presidents of the District Boards of Bangalore, Kolar and Hassan, as also the Vice-Presidents of District and Taluk Boards worked with enthusiasm and Government wish to convey their appreciation of it to these gentlemen. It is however regretted that the members of the Village Panchayets did not take sufficient interest in the working of the Panchayets.

B. N. APPA,
Secretary to Government,
Local and Legislative Departments.